

1 WHEREFORE, I CLAIM

1 1. A manipulative toy comprising:

2 a body having at least one planar surface disposed
3 thereon;

4 at least one appendage having at least one planar
5 surface disposed at the end thereof, said planar surface
6 corresponding to said planar surface on said body;

7 means disposed on both said body and said at least one
8 appendage for removably attaching said appendage to said body at
9 said respective planar surfaces; and

10 means for limiting the rotational and linear movement
11 of said appendage relative to said body.

1 2. The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said means for
2 removably attaching comprises a pair of complementary magnetic
3 elements, said complementary magnet elements being disposed
4 within said planar surfaces of said body and said appendage.

1 3. The interactive manipulative toy of claim 2, wherein said
2 complementary magnetic elements are Nd-Fe-B magnets.

1 4. The interactive manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said
2 means for limiting movement comprises a pair of complementary
3 ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein
4 said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said
5 appendage is attached to said body.

1 5. The manipulative toy of claim 4, wherein said ribbed
2 elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a
3 circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

1 6. The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein said ribs are
2 approximately .75 millimeters wide and 0.75 millimeters deep, and
3 are 24 in number.

1 7. The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein the diameter of
2 said circular configuration of said ribs is approximately 9.75
3 millimeters.

1 8. The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said planar
2 surfaces are roughly circular in area.

1 9. The manipulative toy of claim 8, wherein the diameter of
2 said planar surface on said body is approximately 21 millimeters,
3 and the diameter of said planar surface on said appendage is
4 approximately 19 millimeters.

1 10. The manipulative toy of claim 9, wherein said ribbed
2 element disposed on said appendage is beveled and raised above
3 said planar surface on said appendage, and wherein said ribbed
4 element disposed on said body is beveled and recessed below said
5 planar surface of said body such that said beveled ribbed

6 elements are complementary to each other to thereby allow said
7 ribs to frictionally engage each other when said appendage is
8 attached to said body.

1 11. The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said planar
2 surface on said body is recessed below the surface of said body,
3 said recess being bounded on the upper portion thereof by a
4 ridge.

1 12. The manipulative toy of claim 11, wherein said ridge is
2 arcuate in shape and serves to limit the movement of said
3 appendage when attached to said body.

1 13. The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein at least one
2 appendage and said body are composed of a rigid plastic material.

1 14. The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said body and
2 said at least one appendage are molded to simulate an animal.

1 15. A manipulative toy comprising:
2 a body having at least one roughly circular planar
3 surface disposed thereon;
4 at least one appendage having at least one roughly
5 circular planar surface disposed at the end thereof, said planar
6 surface corresponding to said planar surface on said body;
7 means disposed on both said body and said at least one

8 appendage for removably attaching said appendage to said body at
9 said respective planar surfaces, said means comprising a pair of
10 complementary magnetic elements, said complementary magnet
11 elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body
12 and said appendage; and

13 means for limiting the rotational and linear movement
14 of said appendage relative to said body, said means comprising a
15 pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said
16 planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage
17 each other when said appendage is attached to said body, wherein
18 said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed
19 in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

1 16. The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said ribbed
2 element disposed on said appendage is beveled and raised above
3 said planar surface on said appendage, and wherein said ribbed
4 element disposed on said body is beveled and recessed below said
5 planar surface of said body such that said beveled ribbed
6 elements are complementary to each other to thereby allow said
7 ribs to frictionally engage each other when said appendage is
8 attached to said body.

1 17. The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said planar
2 surface on said body is recessed below the surface of said body,
3 said recess being bounded on the upper portion thereof by a
4 ridge.

1 18. The manipulative toy of claim 16, wherein said ridge is
2 arcuate in shape and serves to limit the movement of said
3 appendage when attached to said body.

1 19. A method for inspiring imagination and creativity using
2 manipulative toys formed in the shape of various animals, said
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 providing at least two manipulative toys, each comprising:

5 a body having at least one planar surface disposed
6 thereon;

7 at least one appendage associated with said body, said
8 appendage having at least one planar surface disposed at the
9 end thereof, said planar surface corresponding to said
10 planar surface on said body;

11 means disposed on both said body and said at least one
12 appendage for removably attaching said appendage to said
13 body at said respective planar surfaces; and

14 means for limiting the rotational and linear movement
15 of said appendage relative to said body; and

16 removably attaching each of said appendages from said
17 associated body to said body of said toy for which said appendage
18 is not associated so as to create a fanciful creature.